

ERIC:

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WA6-2034

Holt  
Cooking  
Standard  
Barthel  
NY Review

20734

9/1/66

Dear Jerry,

*last book*  
This whole thing is getting ripe, several ways. The enclosed letters are for the moment in confidence. Subject to what I hear from my agent between now and then, you may have the letter to the Standard, if you find it as interesting as I did. I may get a chance to write the NY Review also, for I am entranced with their daring and unscrupulousness. Imagine them as publishers of a literary criticism abusing a book that eliminates the value, if any, in one with which they plan to make what would appear to be a book-publishing enterprise. Barbara Epstein knew of my book in February. I spoke to her, personally. This is getting to be quite a scandal. But I'm grateful for the forthrightness of both Hopkins! And the London Standard! And my agent for sending me a copy. And all the other crooks who, not content with making me Galahad, now seek to remake me into David!

The several bookstores I entered in New York treated me like the descending Christ. This morning I got a phoned reorder from a small Atlantic City bookstore, whose customers had been subjected to the full Lane-Epstein barrage. She says in her store WHITEWASH is outselling both others together ten to one. I wish I could believe this to be normal.

*original*  
Please send me the copy of Gervasi's letter, if possible another complete set that I can send to my agent in England. A review of my correspondence reveals that whatever Epstein may or may not have known of his way through the archive, Gervasi knew nothing, accepted my offer of help, asked me about getting him a photocopy of the FBI Report (any my discouraging it as a waste of money but offering to do it on receipt of the cost of photocopying) and a whole bunch of nice stuff like that; his return of the piece in an otherwise blank envelope, which I have, and his comment in a separate letter indicating what I now take to be the line he will now take, I have every confidence without success. I may even be able to pinpoint the exact time they got the photocopies duplicating my work! (We hope further.)

Jerry, is it time for a bash? One is building in England. I haven't seen but I have heard of today's Times ad by Look. A British correspondent phoned me to ask questions. You may also get some interesting advance book news from a comparison of Manchester's interviews in the NY Times of May 9, 1965 and in the London Standard of June 29, 1966. If he is sick, no wonder. He's mixed the unofficial whitewash and the Original is making him sick! His reputation and that of many others now hang in the balance, but not for long. They're done. That NYTimes of May 9 is beautiful. Oswald is a minor figure. The Commission discharged its possibilities on the identification of the assassin and conspiracy "superbly"; and he winds up with a book that says the same thing only the Commission did it badly—he does it well for them. What a scandal brews. I have done all within my power to help everyone concerned, from the family to Harper's. ...I've more letters I must write in a hotel so I can get back to work in a day or so. Please keep me closely informed and clip the journals for me. Tell me if you'd like to use the Standard letter if my English agent agrees, and if nothing in the next month in this country precludes it. I may also make public Lane's letter gunning for Warren and the Holt failure to correct the factual error I call to their prepublication attention. *W. W. W.*

*by Town-Roper*